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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 24 | Min 19 | Humidity 95% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 61,795 | Nifty 18,349 | Gold 52,345 | Silver 61,788 | Dollar 80.70 | Euro 83.26 | GBP 95.11

As BBMP readies to treat choked waterbodies with Japanese Bokashi balls, lake activists, researchers say...

IT'S NOT THAT JAPANEASY!

Method involves dropping mudballs with microorganisms into lakes

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Multiple lake ecosystems in south Bengaluru bearing the brunt of untreated sewage and illegal garbage disposal shall receive an 'organic facelift' soon, we are told.

According to the lake department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), at least five waterbodies in the area will be treated with the Japanese technique of immersing Bokashi balls.

The bioremediation method will involve dropping mudballs with active microorganisms into the lakes. The microbes shall then feed on the sludge at the lake's bottom and thereby improve the water quality.

The lakes that are to be treated include Jogi Kere,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

PAGE 7

VOTERS IN THE CITY

Enrolment down over the years

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Surreal scenes

Time and Space Gallery presents "It's a Way of Life" by Afza Tamkanat & Fawad Tamkanat. The father daughter duo has been trailblazing the art scene for many years, both individually as well as a team. The current exhibition includes well known works of theirs like the Window and Sparrow Series by Afza Tamkanat - early morning morsels of scenes capturing birds chirping by a window - and The Cityscapes Series by Fawad Tamkanat – a surreal encapsulation of the colourful chaos that whelms the city of Hyderabad. **Where: Time and Space Gallery, Lavelle Road, When: 18 Nov – 10 Dec, 11 AM – 6.30 PM; Info: 080 4218 4116 /7760394808 /9035451852**

02 Comic Con is here!

Bengaluru Comic Con, returns with a big bang with its 2022 edition. From celebrity guests to awesome merchandise, from mind-blowing experiences from like of Disney, Warner Bros, to India's (and the world's) best cosplayers - the best weekend of the year is coming back after two years post the pandemic and has completed over 10 years since it first debuted in the country.
Where: KTPO Trade Center, Whitefield
When: Nov 19, 20; Tickets: comicconindia.com

03 Magic of words

Poetry lovers in Bangalore, SIFF and IFA brings to you a two-day poetry festival celebrating the richness of Hindi and Urdu poetry. Envisioned as an annual celebration, it brings to life SIFF's dedication and commitment to excellence in the arts. The festival aims to create space for poetry in the city, bringing poets from across India and delving deeper into their worlds—of words, rhythms, imagery, and imaginations.
Where: Bangalore International Centre
When: November 19-20

The two-day celebration will be all about Indian cacao and craft chocolate

Cacao festival in city raises the bar of India's 'chocolate potential'

Experts will track the journey of artisanal chocolate from the bean to the bar

Rohini Banerjee
c-rohini.banerjee@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Chocolate enthusiasts have gathered in the city! An ongoing craft chocolate festival is melting the city's heart with a unique touch. The Indian Cacao & Craft Chocolate Festival is a result of Patricia Cosma, a chocolate consultant and connoisseur from Romania, and Ketaki Churi, a Mumbai-based chocolate maker, sharing a vision and passion for cacao in the country.

Ever wondered what goes into making that bar of nice artisanal chocolate you say you will put down after two more cubes but cannot because it's so good? The festival will answer those questions with explanations regarding scientific techniques involved in making craft chocolate. Experts will track the journey of artisanal chocolate from the bean to the bar.

Upon exploring the process of chocolate making, post-harvesting techniques, and cacao farming Patricia realised that there the knowledge on how to process good quality cacao beans in India is limited.

"Farms work with big companies to mass produce the chocolates that you see in the market. They want to produce large quantities for the cheapest price possible. So the beans aren't processed like how they should be," she said .

She told Bangalore Mirror that she has been obsessed with chocolate since her childhood. "It was always my favourite thing. Seven years back I tasted craft chocolate from an Austrian chocolate maker called Zotter for the first time and was fascinated by the complexity of the flavours. Shortly I decided to visit his factory. That place became my biggest source of inspiration. Everytime I travel to Europe I go back there," she said.

She believes that India has great potential when it comes to chocolate, probably even more than Europe.

"Five years back I travelled to India for the first time. I was already curious and interested in exploring everything around craft chocolate, so I started visiting cacao farms in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and slowly building connections with people from this industry. I fell in love instantly with the cacao here and its flavours. After a few years, I understood how much potential there is in Indian cacao and chocolate."

She said that the Indian cacao has amazing flavour profiles with warm, earthy, sweet, fruity notes, and can be turned into a variety of delicious chocolate goods. When she met Ketaki, the idea of the chocolate festival came naturally to them, she told BM.

"We started planning it during the beginning of this year, and now we are filled with excitement and joy to open its first edition. We are planning more soon in different cities, but the biggest will remain in Bengaluru. Our aim is to bring awareness around craft chocolate and build a community around it," she explained.

The two days are a celebration of every aspect of Indian cacao and craft chocolate, she said, adding that the festival will see 13 craft chocolate brands from all over India, cacao farmers, and artisans developing special menus with craft chocolate assembling under a common roof.

"People will get to taste everything from fresh cacao, cacao juice, cacao wine, lots of chocolate and pastries, ice cream, tacos - all made with chocolate. There will be educational and interactive workshops and conferences with industry experts and chocolate brands," she further said.

How well do you know your trees?

Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) along with environmental activists have started an education program for the citizens where they aim to increase and protect the green cover in the city.

The program called 'Know your Trees' has been launched by BNP under the guidance of NGO Project Vruksha Foundation.

"We, at the ward level, need to take care of the city's green cover. The green cover does not just mean planting trees but also ensuring their maintenance and health. Planting trees is the easiest part but maintaining it is not so easy so that is what we are focusing on," said Lalithamba V, Campaign Manager at BNP.

The aim of this event is to educate citizens and local leaders about the trees and plants in their vicinity and how to maintain them, understand the species and age of the trees, etc.

"We are trying to initiate this in every ward so the people understand the trees better. We are currently starting this in the Doddenakundi ward as part of 'Mission Mahadevapura'.

"We want to focus on one zone at a time and since Mahadevapura is one of the zones worst affected by the recent rains and floods, we decided to do it in the area. We will be expanding it to other wards as well. It all depends on the kind of response it gets and how the people are willing to initiate it," Lalithamba added.

Project Vruksha Foundation is an NGO that focuses on quantifying biodiversity through a scientific tree census and creating a biodiversity portal.

Vijay Nishanth, a conservationist and the founder of Project Vruksha Foundation, said that they were trying to take citizens and leaders on ground and educate them how to save the environment.

"Firstly we had given all the information about what problems urban areas are facing

and now is the time to go from tree to tree and educate the people about various trees. They will also understand the importance of tree census and digitalization," he said.

"If citizens are volunteering in these activities, they will be able to question authorities better," Nishanth added. The event is scheduled to be held next week.

Fare-play continues with auto unions' apps

| Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Not much change in ride costs after launch of 'Namma Yatri' and 'Rook', say commuters

Commuters say the apps released by auto unions after a tussle between aggregators and the state transport department, is of not much use. In November, Bengaluru's auto unions released their own ride-hailing apps after their service was taken off from existing aggregators.

'Namma Yatri' by the Autorickshaw Driver Union (ARDU) and 'Rook' by the Peace Auto Union are the two apps that were released earlier this month. The auto unions have claimed that the base fare prices will be calculated strictly on the basis of a government-fixed minimum fare.

At the same time, commuters have raised concerns that they are still paying higher fares and little has changed with the release of these apps. "I have tried using Namma Yatri and sometimes the fares are higher than Ola, Uber, etc. They show you a range in between which auto drivers can demand a sum. However, if the app shows Rs. 40 to Rs. 70 for less than 2 km, the drivers insist on taking Rs. 70, which is the same as Ola and Uber prices," said Ajith Ramesh, a user of the Namma Yatri app.

Ajith added that the only difference between the hailing apps and Namma Yatri app is that one can negotiate with the latter, but auto drivers are stubborn, haggle over the prices and refuse to give a ride.

General secretary of Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union of Bengaluru TM Rudramurthy told Bangalore Mirror that in the app, an additional Rs. 10 is charged as a pick-up fee. However, the driver can ask for up to 30 over and above the fare as a 'nominal courtesy fee'.

Other commuters said that ride cancellation is also still an issue on these apps. "A few days ago, I was unable to get any autos or cabs through Ola or Uber, so I decided to try the 'Namma Yatri' app. First, the auto drivers were asking for the maximum fare shown on the app, which was slightly higher than Rapido and Uber. I still accepted the ride, but after I waited for 10 minutes in front of my office, the driver canceled the ride," said Srishti V, another auto commuter.

"The app works smoothly and usually accepts rides within 5-10 minutes but the fare is the same as other private aggregators. The ride cancellation issue is still there, so how is it any better?" she added.

No app for iPhone users

Another complaint that a few commuters highlighted was that the new 'Namma Yatri' app is still not available for iPhone users even after almost two weeks of its launch. "My friends have downloaded this app so I also decided to give it a try but it wasn't available on the app store. The other app 'Rook' is available though I haven't had a chance to try it yet," said Ananya G, another commuter and a resident of Banashankari.

The auto union said that the app will soon be launched for Apple users as well. "We are still to get permission but as soon as we do the app will be made available for the iPhone users also," said Rudramurthy.

The 'Namma Yatri' app has more than one lakh downloads on the Play Store so far. The auto union says that because of the ongoing issue, they have not advertised the app so far. However, they are expecting more users in the future with better publicity and advertising.

Crash barriers for Airport Road

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

After a long wait, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has begun the exercise of making Airport Road safer. Workers were seen installing metal beam crash barriers (MBCB) on the Hebbal-Yelahanka flyover.

DCP North Savitha S told BM, "We had earlier recommended the installation of MBCB and it is now being finally executed. This is essential to prevent accidents. During October last year, we had witnessed accidents where the vehicles coming from Airport Road crossed to the opposite side and hit the vehicles heading towards the airport. These MBCBs are helpful in preventing such accidents.

Earlier, NHAI had placed pots all along the medians. Now, these pots are being removed to place the barriers. Another senior police official said, "Especially on Airport Road, we have witnessed accidents from vehicles coming from the opposite direction. For example, the drivers travelling in one direction will have no clue that a vehicle coming from the opposite end could hit him. So, these barriers will go to a great extent in preventing such accidents."

However, the personnel on the ground said that the heavy traffic on Airport Road is proving to be a hindrance. One of the personnel said, "There is a high volume of traffic literally 24*7 and we are really finding it difficult to install. We want to block a portion of the land so that we are secured while working so that no speeding vehicle will hit us while working. However, even if the road is slightly occupied it can lead to traffic jams and may lead to other accidents. So, the pace of work is naturally slow due to heavy traffic."

Suresh Kumar, a regular traveller on Airport Road, said, "Driving on the six-lane flyovers is always a challenge as the lane discipline goes for a toss. Many times, we see a heavy vehicle either on the middle or the last lane thereby allowing the fast moving vehicles to cross from the left. Many times, drivers lose control while speeding and these result in accidents. Unlike other flyovers (Nelamangala or Electronics City), there is no lay-bye and even police cannot depute interceptors for speed control."

BangaloreMirror

City traffic police and National Highways Authority of India rethink road dividers on stretches without crossroads after tragic crash claims three lives on airport road

FULL METAL JACKET

Coming soon: Metal beam crash barriers

BM had on Nov 23, 2021, written about recommendation to set up barriers

Meanwhile, the NHAI is taking a different approach on the medians at Hosur Road. Instead of crash barriers, they are installing three to five-foot-tall concrete medians so that the pedestrian movement is hindered and vehicles cross over to other lanes when they speed. Another police official said that the crash barriers are not enough to prevent accidents. He suggested that at the down ramp of the Hebbal flyover junction, there need to be a complete blockade of pedestrian movement. "We have seen a number of pedestrians losing their lives. Despite subways, many prefer to cross the road and then end up being victims. We need to completely block the access so that no one can cross the highway."

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Tree guards leave citizens bamboozled

JP Nagar residents question utility of BBMP's haphazard and flimsy bamboo sapling guards

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) starting the plantation drive, JP Nagar residents are objecting to bamboo-based tree guards. They are concerned about the stability and long-lasting utility of these structures.

Previously, the civic body had announced a plantation drive involving 99,000 plants, within a budget of Rs 9,000 crore, over a period of nine months. However, this year, they chose bamboo-based tree guards for their eco-friendly nature and economic benefits. Rs 1,000 has been allocated for each tree and Rs 400 has been allocated for the bamboo tree guards.

Some residents alleged that these guards are strangling the plants. Questioning the irregularities in the implementation, they want stricter oversight by the BBMP. "After repeated follow-ups for months, the plantation drive has started in our area, but the project is being implemented haphazardly. While the eco-friendly benefits of this exercise are evident, we need to seriously question its utility. Some of the tree guards were found to be strangulating the plants, while others were planted in rajakaluve buffer zones and private properties. In some areas, people are picking the bamboo tree guards and selling them," said Rajagopalan R, a resident of the area.

He further said that there has not been any transparency in the project and there has been no proper allocation of spaces for the same.

Residents say that these structures may not withstand heavy rain

"We have been asking for details regarding the project through ward committees, but have been unable to receive any results. We want to question why taxpayers should spend towards planting trees in the buffer zone area," he told Bangalore Mirror.

Residents also questioned whether such structures would withstand heavy rain and wind. They have sent a letter to the BBMP Special Commissioner (Finance) highlighting the same.

BBMP's forest wing said that watchers have been assigned for regular maintenance of the tree guards. "We are using iron tree guards in high congestion areas, and

> **We are using iron tree guards in high congestion areas, and in other areas, we are using bamboo. Even if the bamboo tree guards lean over, watchers will re-erect them** –BBMP

in other areas, we are using bamboo. A tender is yet to be issued for the iron guards. We have gone with bamboo-based tree guards for their economic and environmental benefits. Even if the bamboo-tree guards lean, watchers will re-erect them," said Sareena Sikkaligar, BBMP DCF.

Sikkaligar added that the agency is planting these trees on roadsides, parks, institutions, and government offices.

A bamboo expert said that bamboo-based tree guards last over 10 years, after which they need to be replaced with new bamboo. "Primarily, bamboo tree guards are used in areas receiving heavy rainfall, but are not often seen in cities," said Neelam Manjunath, Bamboo Centre for Excellence.

"Traditionally, bamboo-based tree guards are used in villages, but might not be effective in urban spaces owing to congestion in cities. They could also be pushed down by vehicles or cattle. Tree officers and RFOs need to ensure constant monitoring of the project. Iron guards provide maximum protection. If the eco-friendly measure is not effective, there is no point in planting saplings," said tree activist Vijay Nishanth.

BMTC is feeling burden of being loansome

Transport corporation has taken Rs 1,324.9 crore in loans over the last five years

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has drawn Rs 1,324.90 crore in loans from financial institutions in the last five years. These shocking numbers were revealed by Transport Minister B Sreeramulu while replying to a question in the Legislative Council recently. Sreeramulu said, "The BMTC has taken a loan of Rs 1,324.90 crore between 2017-18 to 2021-22. These loans have been raised to construct bus depots, construction works, procurement of buses, and for other expenses."

Sreeramulu said that BMTC had borrowed Rs 554.90 crore in 2017-18 from Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC) and Canara Bank for constructing bus stands and buying buses. In 2018-19, Rs 19.95 crore was loaned by Canara Bank for buying buses and paying the previous debt. In 2019-20, Rs 160 crore was borrowed from Canara Bank for paying dues related to the profit fund. In 2020-21, Rs 407.05 crore was borrowed from KUIDFC and Canara Bank for procurement of buses and paying dues related to provident funds. In the last financial year (2021-22), Rs 183 crore was borrowed from KUIDFC for buying buses and meeting other expenses.

BMTC has been losing commuters due to the popularity of ride hailing apps, the metro

Sources said that BMTC was compelled to take loans and the revenues have been dented due to not-so-encouraging policies from successive governments. The corporation has not been allowed to hike the fares with the subsequent rise in fuel prices. According to records, BMTC was making profits between 1997-2012. In fact, during the 2006-07 financial year, BMTC's profits soared to Rs 224 crore, the highest in their history. Until 2011, the transport corporation was making a decent profit of Rs 21 crore to Rs 51 crore. The fall in revenue started from 2008-9 (although it didn't immediately dip to losses). Officials said that this was the time when BMTC ambitiously pushed for AC buses. These buses were expensive to buy as well as maintain. Except in a few routes like Airport, Whitefield, ORR, and Electronic City, the buses failed to get commuters.

The BMTC has been losing riders, which is denting the revenues.

However, officials say that the biggest setback for the transport corporation was the consistent increase in diesel prices.

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Remove the poster
Bannerghatta

This poster has been pasted on the KEB junction box opposite More supermarket in Vijayawada Bank layout, Bannerghatta.

Illegal occupancy
South End Road

A builder has occupied the road for marketing activities next to Shell petrol pump on South End road, inconveniencing pedestrians and motorists.

Traffic jams
Millers Road

The hoysala, along with street vendors, are creating traffic jams at the corner of Millers Road and Nandidurga Main Road.

Man dies in hit-and-run

Witness shares video on social media; police on lookout for driver

Ahna Prakash
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A 23-year-old man who was crossing the Hebbal Ring Road was killed in a hit-and-run incident at 11 pm on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Bapi Kumar. He worked in a private company in Bengaluru.

On Friday night, Anshuman Gaurav, a resident of the city, shared a video on Twitter which showed that a speeding lorry hit the victim and the driver fled the scene. The driver is still absconding, said the police.

A case has been registered at Banaswadi Police Station.

"We are looking for the lorry driver. The number plate of the lorry was visible in the video that was shared on twitter. We are trying to track down the driver's location," said a police personnel.

According to the police, people around the area took the victim to a hospital in Kalyan Nagar after the accident.

"The victim was declared dead by the doctor at around 11:50 pm. The doctor said that the victim sustained serious injuries on his back and stomach," informed the police.

The person who shared the video on social media tagged the Bengaluru police department in his post. Later, several other people expressed their outrage towards the city police.

The video of the accident has now been deleted by the user.

CRIME FILES

Teen found dead, cops say 'suicide'

In a shocking incident, a teenager was reported to have died by suicide after allegedly being upset over a fight with her brother involving a mobile phone.

The girl has been identified as Ruchita, an 18-year-old who was a resident of Doddaballapur.

She died at around 1 pm on Friday, informed police.

"In the statement given by the girls' parents, they said that she was always on her phone, which led to a fight between the siblings," said an official of the Doddaballapur police station.

When the parents of the girl discovered the body, they took her to Doddaballapur government hospital. Later, the hospital contacted the police. The police could not ascertain the reason behind the incident and an investigation is ongoing.

"We are sure that this is a suicide case. The body has gone for a post-mortem. After the results are out, we will know what she may have consumed to kill herself. We can't say much about how she committed suicide because the case is still under investigation," said the police.

According to the police, the victim has not left any suicide note. **-Ahna Prakash**

Minor girl rape: Doctor to take call on abortion

The Karnataka High Court has allowed the termination of a 25-week pregnancy of a 13-year-old rape victim, subject to the opinion of doctors at a government hospital here. It said, the doctor will be the deciding authority after examining the victim and assessing if such a procedure will endanger her life.

"The procedure is subject to further examination of the doctor who has to conduct such a procedure, and if in the opinion of the doctor, such a procedure would cause harm or injury to the life of the petitioner, the doctor shall be the final deciding authority as to whether to go ahead or not with such a procedure," the HC said in a recent order. The victim and her family members will be transported from her home to the hospital and back by the local police, the HC said.

The cost of the procedure will be borne by the government, and if the procedure is carried out, the fetus will be preserved for future DNA testing in the case, Justice M Nagaprasanna has directed hospital authorities.

The procedure will have to be carried out as per the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 1971, the HC said citing an earlier HC judgment in a similar case.

The victim had approached the HC with a petition through her mother. The victim was raped in May 2022.

Any future medical expenses of the victim will also be borne by the government. **-PTI**

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With My Parents and Their Blessings
Sri H.A. Kempegowda
Former Member, BBMP
Hanumanthanagar Ward, Bangalore

Melatonin not long-term fix for sleep issues: Docs

Melatonin gummies may help you sleep in the short run, but has side effects when taken for too long

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

City doctors have reported that there has been a significant increase in the number of people who are using melatonin, and a sizable chunk of these people are students.

Doctors warn that an increased dosage can lead to harmful side effects.

Dr Ananthu Krishnan, a general physician practising in Whitefield, said, "Most of my patients who are having problems sleeping tend to be students or young adults. Almost all of them have told that they use melatonin gummies to get rid of their sleeping problems. It might not show any immediate negative side effects, but I definitely do not recommend them for long-term use."

According to him, people are unaware of how much dosage they require. Generally, one should not go above 5 mg. But it varies from person to person. The common side effects of using melatonin are nightmares, dizziness, headache, day time sleepiness. While there have also been cases where a person suffered from depression, anxiety, and even stomach cramps. If a person is suffering from insomnia, there must be an underlying issue that needs to be addressed instead of using melatonin every night to fall asleep. The problem lies in the fact that people always start with self-treatment rather than coming to an expert. There have been so many cases where people have consumed medicines that they have looked online and fallen ill, he explained.

He added that the easy availability of melatonin on online sites as well as in pharmacies is one of the reasons why it is being used by a lot of people.

Ashish Kumar, a college student, said, "After my second semester started, I was having a lot of stress dealing with the syllabus and as a result, my sleep also started getting affected. I looked through some sites and found out about melatonin gummies. I ordered them on an online site. After using them, my sleep problem was resolved. It did help me as I was able to wake up with a lot more energy and since I was not facing any other problem, I did not go to any doctor either."

"I slept well through the night, but throughout the morning, I would feel drowsy. So, I stopped them, but now my insomnia is back

Another college student, said that he had also started consuming melatonin gummies for his sleep problem, and it worked fine for a few weeks until he started having headaches after waking up. "I slept well through the night, but throughout the morning, I would feel drowsy. So, I stopped them, but now my insomnia is back. I am planning on switching the brand of the gummies to see if it helps."

No prescriptions are required for these gummies which make them very easily accessible. A manager of a pharmacy store in Dasarahalli said that for melatonin gummies, they do not ask for a prescription as it is quite common.

Statue unveiling: Invite to former PM triggers political slugfest

A slugfest over inviting leaders of the Opposition parties for the unveiling of a statue of Bengaluru's founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda has erupted in Karnataka.

The differences were over the protocol allegedly not being followed by the BJP-ruled State government in extending the invitation, particularly to former Prime Minister and JD(S) leader HD Deve Gowda.

With JD(S) terming it as an insult to Gowda and people of the State, and accusing the government of turning the unveiling into a party event, the BJP hit back by releasing the letters written by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to various dignitaries inviting them and they included Deve Gowda.

It accused the JD(S) of indulging in a false propaganda, fearing polarisation of Vokkaliga votes.

On Friday, Modi unveiled the 108-foot high statue near the Kempegowda International Airport here. The statue was the first and the highest bronze statue of a founder of a city, according to the 'World Book of Records'.

Kempegowda, a feudatory ruler under the erstwhile Vijayanagara Empire, founded Bengaluru in 1537. He is revered, especially by the Vokkaliga community that is dominant in Old Mysuru and other parts of southern Karnataka.

Deve Gowda is a tall Vokkaliga leader, and the community forms the core of JD(S)'s voter base.

The developments following the installation of the statue, ahead of the Assembly polls next year, show that a competition of sorts seems to have erupted between the political parties to claim credit for the legacy of Kempegowda. The aim was to garner electoral support from the politically dominant Vokkaliga community.

Speaking on the controversy, JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy claimed his father H D Deve Gowda got a call on Thursday from the Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai inviting Gowda for the event on Friday. Besides, a letter was handed over by someone to the police stationed at the compound of former Prime Minister's residence. "The letter released by the BJP starts with the word -respected...it has Deve Gowda's name somewhere at the end of the letter; the name seems to have been added later," he alleged as he hit out at the saffron party questioning whether its leaders have any civility.

However, Minister CN Ashwath Narayan, who was overseeing the statue project and unveiling programme as he is also the vice-chairman of the Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority, said Bommai himself had invited and written a letter to Deve Gowda, and his name also appears on the inaugural plaque.

"He (Gowda) was invited, but did not come, our government and people have respect for Gowda and there is no question of disrespecting him," he said. **PTI**

Biodiversity hotspot K'taka pays a high price

Karnataka, which is recognised as one of the 35 biodiversity hotspots in the world and one of the four in India, is headed towards climate catastrophe, warn environmentalists.

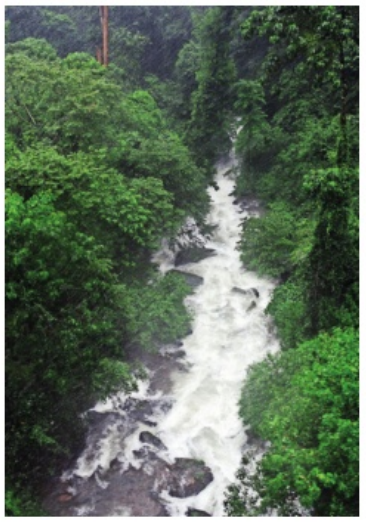
Environmentalist and founding member of the Foundation for Ecological Security Dr AN Yellappa Reddy stated that Karnataka is already starting to witness climate catastrophe.

"Karnataka has been facing a climate catastrophe. It happened in Bengaluru recently. The Western Ghats have been eroding in floods. Not a word has been spoken about what was being stated in the UN at COP-27," Yellappa Reddy said.

The state government has recently denotified 120 square kilometres of the Bannerghatta National Park forests located on the outskirts of Bengaluru for development, he says.

Detailing the destruction of forest cover taking place in the state, Reddy said that recently Swami Malai and Devaragudda, one of the richest forest areas, has been leased out to Kudremukh for 50 years by the government. "Ansi National Park in the Kali Tiger Project Area, which took shape during my tenure as conservator of forests, is one of the world's richest areas. A broad-gauge railway track, national highway and port is being developed for which lakhs and lakhs of trees are being cut," he stated.

For the Hubballi-Karwar railway line, five lakh trees in virgin forests



are being cut for importing coal and mines export. For the Mekedatu project, 3,000 to 4,000 acres of the Cauvery Sanctuary land will go under water to supply water to Bengaluru, Reddy informed.

"Bengaluru founder Kempe Gowda's 108-feet tall statue is being built by the state government. I don't know with what moral right they have built it. Kempe Gowda sacrificed his daughter-in-law to save a lake in Bengaluru. The lakes are being destroyed, mini forests destroyed in Bengaluru. Avenues of trees 500-700 years old have been cut. Since five years five to six lakh trees have been cut in Bengaluru alone," he claimed.

Reddy stated that the five pledges taken at the COP-26 and COP-27 have been totally violated.

As per the official data, Karnataka is the sixth largest state in India accounting for 5.83 per cent of the geographical area of the country. The state is known for its rich biodiversity. The evergreen forests of the Western Ghats cover about 60 per cent of the total forest area. The recorded forest area (RFA) in the state is 38,284 square kms. It supports about 10% of the tiger population and 25 per cent of the elephant population of the country. Karnataka ranks fourth among the top five states in increase in forest cover. Karnataka's forest cover is about 22.61 per cent of the state's geographical area, says India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021, published by the Forest Survey of India. **–IANS**

THE SUNDAY READ

Ballot deficit

Voter numbers going down in city; millenials not as interested in enrolling, say officials

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Bengaluru may be considered to be among the most progressive cities in the world, but people in the city don't seem to be too interested in enrolling to vote! During the previous elections, Bengaluru has witnessed poor voter turnout. However, now, it has been observed that not many Bengalureans are even willing to enroll for voting.

The electors-to-population ratio (EPR) in Bengaluru is just 55.21% as against the State's EPR average of 67.22%. Officials say that not many millenials (who attain the age of 18 to vote) are not coming forward for enrollment. The state's average enrollment of fresh voters (those who have attained the age of 18 to 19 years) is 2.35% while in Bengaluru, it is just 1.35%.

Dip in voter numbers

Voter numbers in the city too have actually dipped (mainly due to a lot of deletions). As per the current draft voter list, there are 91,15,805 voters in the city. However, as on January 1, 2022, the number of voters in the city were 94,92,539! There has been a total deletion of 3,76,734 voters in the current list. In fact, the latest list numbers are just marginally higher than the voters of the last elections (As per the 2019 parliamentary elections, there were 90,87,845 voters in all). This means, technically since 2019, the total addition of voters in the city have been a mere 27,960.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "There is a need to create more awareness among the people to enroll themselves for voting. As we need more millenials to be on board, we have come up with special schemes. We have decided to give four opportunities in a year for people who attain the age of 18 to enroll. Now, those attaining the eligible age can either enroll on January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1, 2023."

He said there was one more incentive. "Even those youngsters who are now aged 17 can enroll for addition of their name in the voters list. Once enrolled, they will be given an acknowledgement and their details will be added to the system. The system will automatically enroll their names as and when the applicant turns 18. As we are rolling out a number of measures, we hope more and more youngsters will be on board for voting."

Compared to the January 1, 2022 list, a total of 3,0,7,535 voters have been added, 52,517 modifications made (like name or address change etc) and 6,69,652 voter names have been deleted in BBMP limits.

So, why are not many millenials not up for voting? "We always have a lot of issues and point them out to the government or officials for failing to work. However, it is everyone's right to vote. If we don't vote, then how can we complain? It is sad to note that there has been a lukewarm response for voting in Bengaluru. During the last parliamentary elections in 2019, the voter turnout in Bengaluru constituencies was a mere 51.1%. This is in stark contrast with neighbouring Telangana where the recent Mungode poll percentage was 93.13%. So, there is a need to create awareness especially among the youngsters to enroll for voter lists and encourage them to vote during the future elections," said Harish Kumar, a civic activist.

B'luru South is the largest constituency

Among the 28 constituencies in the BBMP limits, Bengaluru South has turned out to be the largest constituency in terms of voter numbers. As per the latest draft list, South MLA constituency has a total of 6,14,466 voters. (The lowest number of voters are from Shivajinagar (1,91,728). Surprisingly, Bengaluru South has a rare distinction of having the maximum additions (35,288) and deletions (45,927). Basavanagudi has the lowest additions (2,836) while the lowest deletions were from Rajajinagar (12,575) among all the Assembly constituencies.

Slight increase in sex ratio

The gender ratio of female to male voters in Bengaluru has gone up slightly. As per the 2020 draft roll, the sex ratio was 921 and now it has gone up to 925. The sex ratio is highest in Jayanagar (985) and lowest in Mahadevapura (852). Surprisingly, the Aadhaar linkage to the voter card is also yet to pick up in the city. The average linkage in BBMP limits is at 26% (as against the state average of 68%). Bengaluru North parliamentary constituency has seen the highest at 30%, Central at 25.88% and South 20.11% of Aadhaar linkage. Among the Assembly constituencies, the highest linkage is at Chamarajpet (52.74%) and lowest at Govindarajanagar (13.04%).

"We have decided to give four opportunities in a year for those who turn 18. They can enroll on January 1, April 1, July 1 or October 1, 2023

–Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP Chief Commissioner

318 riders lost lives in 2021 on city roads

| Ahna Prakash
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Records show the vulnerability of two-wheeler riders in the city. As many as 318 riders died and 1,719 were injured in road accidents in 2021, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data has revealed.

The city ranked third in the country for road accidents. Of 55,442 traffic accidents in 53 mega cities in India, 3,213 were reported in Bengaluru. It accounted for 5.8% of the total road accidents in the country after Delhi and Chennai, which accounted for 9.1% and 8.1% respectively.

According to the data, Bengaluru accounted for 6.4% of the total deaths of two-wheeler accidents in the state. Karnataka has recorded 5,021 deaths of two-wheeler riders in 2021.

Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru West Traffic Division, says that certain areas in the city like Ring Road and Nice Road record the highest traffic violations by two-wheeler riders.

"A major factor behind maximum cases being recorded on these roads is that they are in good condition. On these roads, two-wheeler riders tend to raise the speed. It is the status of the road that determines the number of accidents. Roads that are in good condition record more traffic violations and accidents," he said.

Experts say rash riding, speeding major cause of fatalities; not wearing helmet also contributes to rise in number of deaths of two-wheeler riders

He added that the city traffic police organises various drives to make people aware about traffic safety.

"We keep a track of anything detrimental for two-wheeler riders like riding without a helmet, triple riding or using mobile phones while riding. We have identified certain places in the city which are prone to two-wheeler accidents, so we keep doing special drives in these areas," he added.

Traffic and mobility experts say that most accidents are a result of negligence by the rider. "More than the infrastructure failures like potholes, it is the negligence and rash driving that is to be blamed for the increasing number of deaths due to road accidents. In recent years, the number of people using two-wheelers has also increased and so the data shows an increase in the number of deaths as well. Also, most two-wheeler riders on the outskirts of the city don't wear a helmet, which is the main cause of death due to head injury," traffic expert Sreehari told Bangalore Mirror.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

WHAT A MOOD!

Driving back from Wayanad, this photo was taken in the Bandipur forest. This wild elephant was grazing on the side of the road. We slowed down to take photos. This elephant did not like us intruding in its personal space.

The picture was clicked by reader **Poonam Singh**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Potholes everywhere, but does anyone care?

In Electronics City's Neeladri Nagar, residents say authorities never respond to any complaints

The roads in Neeladri Nagar are riddled with craters & vehicles get damaged very often

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

For the residents of Neeladri Nagar in Electronics City, pothole-free roads are a distant dream. The residents add that despite complaining to BBMP authorities, no step has been taken.

Rinshad Alam, a resident of the area, said, "These potholes have been here for a very long time. It gets very difficult to take out the vehicles from the garage. Even commuting using a bike is dangerous because of the uneven road. Our vehicles also face significant damages."

Ishika Raj, a school student who also lived in the area, said that she goes to school in an auto. But the auto driver refuses to enter her street. "He says that it will damage his vehicle. So, he waits a little away from my house. I have to walk all the way home with the heavy bag."

The residents have also said that during rains, the condition worsens as the road becomes slippery and commuting becomes even more dangerous.

During rains, the roads become slippery & residents are in danger of slipping

The roads become very dangerous. During rains, the holes will get filled with water and we often cannot understand that there is a pothole on the road. Because of this reason, yesterday, my bike fell into one of the potholes and I somehow saved myself from falling. The road also becomes very slippery. The authorities should look into this matter and fix the roads as soon as possible," said Adarsh Gopi, who also resides in the area.

As most stories go, complaints go unattended. Manjunath M, another resident, said that they had made so many complaints but still we have not received even one response. The roads have made commuting extremely inconvenient. Many kids walk through this road and if they are not careful, they can fall and injure themselves because of the potholes. The rains have started again, it is important that the officials should take some action now."

A BBMP official said, "We will send an official to inspect the area."

DID YOU KNOW?

The Daly Memorial Hall, a popular spot for history buffs, is a heritage building that houses the Mythic Society. It was built at a cost of Rs 24,783, and was inaugurated on 25 July 1917 by the Kanteerava Narasimharaja Wadiyar (the Yuvaraja of Mysore). The Hall is named after Sir Hugh Daly, who served as the Resident of Mysore State and Chief Commissioner of Coorg. The facade of the hall is reminiscent of the Greco-Roman style, with fluted columns capped with capitals featuring Acanthus leaves. The floor is made of reclaimed French terracotta tiles and the roof is finished with Mangalore tiles. The Society houses a library which has many rare books in its collection over 46,000 books.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

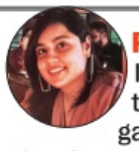
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Who are your idols from the city and why?



Pooja Jain, Student
I really admire the work that the traffic police in the city do. Bengaluru's notorious traffic is already hard enough to manage but with the bad weather and road conditions, their work is one of the hardest in the city. Still, they are most receptive to people's problems and try their best to manage the situation.

Rohit Pawan, BM Reader
Pankaj Advani is my idol from the city. I am a big fan of him and think that his skills are just amazing. I would love to have him as my mentor someday.

Ashutosh Tomar,
Business Analyst
The patience and perseverance that cricket icon Rahul Dravid exhibits has always had a paramount significance globally which I want to inculcate in myself. Hence, he is my idol from Bengaluru.

Jinit Parmar, BM Reader
My idol in the city is Ramakrishna, a social worker and a member of the schedule tribe Hakki Pikki colony near Wonderla. He has worked and is working for securing basic land and education rights for the tribal community.

Chetan Singh, BM Reader
The following five whose movies clocked crores and gave us global recognition are my idols. They may be natives of other places but as domiciles of Bengaluru they have made us proud. Yash, Rishab Shetty, Sudeep, Puneeth Rajkumar and Rakshit Shetty.

SPEAK TO US

Which is your favourite place of leisure in Bengaluru and why?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Cinnamon has been shown to decrease the amount of glucose that enters the bloodstream after a meal

Pet ownership can go a long way toward helping reduce social isolation

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All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My husband and I are in our early 50s, but we're both very young at heart and have a 10-year-old daughter, who also keeps us on our toes. We've been together for 20 years and our relationship has been solid. My issue is, while I'm happy in the relationship, life is very unexciting.
We still have sex once or twice a week and it's OK, and I do still fancy him, but there's no thrill. Every day feels the same. While my husband is a good dad and partner, he's not very dynamic and I think he's happy with the way things are. But I'm not. His routines are starting to irritate me and I've found myself making fun of his interests. I'm worried the relationship is on the slide. He's not an easy person to talk to about anything serious, so I've just being putting off the conversation. I'd love your advice.

COLEEN SAYS

Well, look, you're being very passive here – why is it only up to your husband to create the excitement in your lives and the thrill in bed?
If you want things to improve, it's going to take effort from both of you but, first, you have to stop putting off the conversation and tell him how you feel. He's not a mind reader and if you're not speaking up, then he will probably assume you're fine with the way things are. You sound like you're in a classic rut – you have stopped making an effort for each other, you've got a bit too comfortable and things have become mundane. The truth is, the longer you're together, the more you have to put into the relationship to keep it fun and interesting. It's very easy to let things slide when you're consumed by work, childcare and running the house too. So you have to put your relationship back at the top of the priorities list and come up with some ideas to help you feel more connected as a couple.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Treats, just for the kids

This Children's Day, plate up these colourful snacks that are a sure way to pamper the lil ones

CHOCOLATE PRETZEL

Prep Time: 5 mins
Cooking Time: 20 mins
Serves 6

INGREDIENTS

- cooking chocolate: 200 gm
- icing sugar: 1 cup
- eggs: 2
- butter: 2 cups
- all-purpose flour: 100 gm
- salt: a pinch
- baking powder: 1/2 pinch
- cocoa: 50 gm

METHOD

- Combine the butter, salt, baking powder and icing sugar.
- Beat the eggs in a separate bowl first and then mix into the batter.
- Sift the prepared mixture in the flour and mix the cocoa very well into it.
- Make a stiff dough and keep aside for 30-40 minutes.
- Preheat the oven to 325 F degrees and grease the baking tray with butter/margarine.
- Divide the prepared dough into small equal size balls and roll out each into a shape of pretzels.
- Place them on the greasy tray and bake for about 20 minutes.
- Melt the cooking chocolate in 2 cups of water over low flame.
- Drop the prepared pretzels one by one into the hot chocolate and immediately take them out.
- Dry each chocolate pretzel on the grease-proof paper for few minutes and serve.

PINWHEEL SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- white or whole wheat bread: 7 to 8 slices
- finely chopped or grated carrots: ¼ cup
- finely chopped bell pepper: ¼ cup
- finely chopped cabbage: ¼ cup
- finely chopped green onions: 2 tbsp
- eggless mayonnaise: 2 to 3 tbsp
- Softened butter (at room temperature)
- Black pepper powder: to taste
- Salt: to taste

METHOD

- Finely chop the vegetables or grate them.
- Stir in the mayonnaise, black pepper powder and crushed red pepper. Mix gently.
- Trim crusts from the bread slices.
- Using a rolling pin, flatten each slice.
- Place them such that they are overlapping each other in a single row.
- Wet the edges of the sides overlapping and seal the edges to join them.
- Gently spread butter over the slices evenly.
- Divide the mayo-veggie mixture equally among the bread slices and spread evenly with a knife.
- Gently start rolling the slices tightly to make a tight roll.
- Wrap the rolls in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hr. or even overnight.
- Remove plastic wrap and slice the rolls with a sharp knife.

Prep Time: 15 mins
Cooking Time: 5
Serves 14

PIZZA MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS

- All-purpose flour: 1-1/2 cups
- baking powder: 1-1/2 tsp
- Green bell pepper: 1/2
- Whole egg: 1
- Extra virgin olive oil: 1/4 cup
- pizza & pasta Sauce: 1/2 cup
- dried oregano: 1 tsp
- Basil leaves: 1 sprig
- Mozzarella cheese: 1/2 cup
- Salt: 1/2 tsp

Prep Time: 10 mint
Cooking Time: 45 mint
Serves 2

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 200 C. Line the muffin pans with cupcake-liners and keep aside.
- Sift the flour, salt and baking powder together in a large mixing bowl and set aside.
- Add the remaining ingredients except the cheese into the flour mixture and using a mixer, combine all the ingredients until well combined.
- Spoon the muffins until 3/4th full. Place the pizza muffins in the oven to make and bake for 20 minutes.
- When the muffins are done, sprinkle the cheese on the top and put it back into the oven, until it melts.
- Once the pizza muffins are done, remove and allow it to cool for 15 minutes before you are ready to serve.

By Rohan Malwankar, Executive Chef, Courtyard By Marriot Bengaluru Hebbal

real estate

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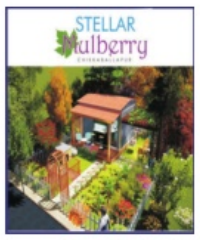

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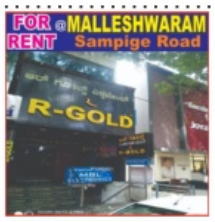

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Will Bokashi balls save lakes?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Byappana Palya Kunte, Chikkabasti, Vishwaneedam amongst a few others.

"We have asked the contractors at Jogi Kere, Byappana Palya Kunte, Chikkabasti, Vishwaneedam and a few other lakes in the area to familiarise themselves with the technique. BBMP officials will be making Bokashi balls on-site under the guidance of an expert. After preparation, the balls have to be left for one week to dry before they can be used to clean the waterbodies," said an official at the BBMP's lake department.

The balls are made of Bokashi powder, cow dung, husk, and red soil mixed with the sludge from the respective waterbody.

According to bioremediation expert Kiran C Kulkarni, the Bokashi ball contains a combination of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria which helps in clearing organic matter from lakes and gets rid of the foul smell.

"Pollution in the waterbodies is mainly due to organic materials such as food waste, untreated sewage and other degradable garbage. All these materials enter lakes when it rains and starts decomposing. This causes an increase in the biological oxygen demand of the lake -- dissolved oxygen level drops, leading to fish kills and bad stench. The technique is used when the waterbodies develop a stink. The balls are put at the bottom of the lake to clear the organic matter," said Kulkarni.

However, water pollution experts and lake activists are of the view that the Bokashi ball technique is unscientific with no proven record.

> **"It is important to take up pilot experiments in lab and develop these principles before taking it to the field**
>
> — Dr Priyanka Jamwal, research fellow, ATREE

"It is an unscientific method to deal with waterbodies with high nutrient content. It does not decrease any nutrients in the lake, but ends up adding more phosphate. While it gives respite from the foul smell in the first week of application or so, the stench increases over the next few days due to higher concentration of nutrients," said V Ramprasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

According to the researchers at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), the BBMP had conducted this experiment at Jakkur Lake sometime ago — there was no improvement in water quality recorded after the treatment, they said.

"It is supposed to be a biological process that breaks down organic matter. We collected the water samples before and after the balls were immersed at Jakkur Lake; we found that there was no difference in the organic matter content of the waterbody before and after the treatment," said Dr Priyanka Jamwal, research fellow, ATREE.

According to researchers, going ahead with any technique without understanding the biology and chemistry of the process is not the best way to deal with issues on the ground.

"For any reaction to happen inside a waterbody, a certain hydraulic retention time is required. For instance, the retention time for a wastewater treatment plant is about five to eight hours. Also, there should be some design principles deployed in such processes. It is important to take up some pilot experiments in the lab and develop these principles before taking it to the field," said Dr Jamwal.

"Rather than wasting public funds on unscientific methods, BBMP should look at a scientifically proven nutrient removal method. The root cause of lake pollution is the inflow of untreated sewage and dumping of garbage. The civic body must primarily focus on blocking the entry of sewage into the waterbodies," Ramprasad of Friends of Lakes told BM.

Act on stopping sewage ingress, says pollution control board

Melvin Mathew
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Noting negligent action towards arresting sewage entering Yarandahalli Lake, the pollution control authority has pulled up Hennagara gram panchayat officials for allowing untreated sewage into the lake. To find a solution to sewage ingress, the state pollution control board has asked that an action report be filed within seven days.

The lake in Bommasandra under Hennagara gram panchayat, Anekal Taluk has been heavily polluted with industrial effluents and sewage ingress into the lake. The lake flows into Kachanayakanahalli Lake and further into Chandapura Lake. The situation of Chandapura Lake got officials the National Green Tribunal's rap recently. Anekal residents have depende on the interconnected lake system in Anekal Taluk for agricultural purposes.

In a letter issued to the Hennagara Gram Panchayat, the KSPCB addressed the inflow of untreated sewage ingress and observed that it's not suitable for drinking or consumption by cattle. It highlighted that as per water samples collected, the Dissolved Oxygen, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand, Chemical Oxygen Demand and Fecal Coliform were found to be higher than permissible limits.

It noted that that is evidence of untreated sewage entering the lake. The pollution control authority added that letting untreated sewage Is illegal as per the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974.

The action was taken as part of the activities to be undertaken under the NGT order asking to address the pollution in Jigani and Bommasandra industrial belts.

KSPCB further added that in May 2021, a joint inspection by Regional Officer, representatives from NGO, and Hennagara gram panchayat officials was conducted and the sewage inflow was highlighted. Despite issuing instructions to take corrective actions, the panchayat officials have not been able to provide a written statement for the past 1.5 years.

KSPCB further added that the polluted water from the Yarandahalli and Kachanayaknahalli lakes is also entering the Chandapura Lake and it was observed in the joint inspection.

"Taking note of the seriousness of the matter, they should take immediate action regarding this and submit an action report within seven days," said the report. Failure to comply will result in a criminal case being filed as per The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, stated the report.

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Mysuru's cycling space to get 8.7 km longer

There are 450 bicycles in the city and 52 docking stations

Cycle-friendly Mysuru was the first city in Karnataka to start 'trin trin', a cycling project to encourage pedallists. Now, going a step further, the authorities have decided to extend the cycle track in the royal city.

A 8.7-km-long cycling track will be constructed at a cost of Rs 4 crore, with work set to begin soon. The Mysore City Corporation (MCC) has already issued work orders for the contractors.

The track was a pet project of PS Vastrad who used to serve as the Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru. He was instrumental in starting various green initiatives including the project where everyone was encouraged to take up cycling to office on Mondays. The MCC launched 'trin trin' cycles in Mysuru. The unique scheme involved a minimal charge being paid by citizens for using the cycles. The user had to pay a one-time registration fee for a contactless card used to unlock the cycles.

Mysuru was the first city in state to encourage cycling and have dedicated cycle lanes set up (file photo)

The cycles were parked at vantage points so that people could take them and ride to their destination and park it at the nearest stand. Though there were apprehensions initially, the project received good public support.

> **Traffic is increasing in various parts, which means pollution in this city will go up. We need to find ways to boost non-motorised transport**
>
> –Mahadevasamy Gowda, Chamundipuram resident

Now, the MCC wants to make it larger by having a dedicated cycling track.

As of now, there is a cycle track between Lalit Mahal Road and Cheluvamba Park on KRS Road.

The proposed cycle track will include stretches between Kuvempu Statue to Kukkarahalli Lake, Kautilya Circle to MUDA Office, Ramaswamy Circle to Ballal Circle, Kukkarahalli to Vishwamanava Road, and Ashoka Road Circle to Tennis Court.

Mysuru Mayor Shiva Kumar said, "The bicycle track is built for the convenience of bicyclists. Once the track is ready, we are planning to launch various campaigns to create awareness on cycling."

There are registration centres for the 'trin trin' service (which has around 17,300 users) near Mysuru Suburban Bus Stand, City Bus Stand, Railway Station, RTO office, Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, and Palace.

There are 450 bicycles in the city with 52 docking stations.

"This is definitely a wonderful initiative. Unlike Bengaluru, Mysuru's traffic is comparatively less. However, the traffic is increasing in various parts. This is also an indication that the pollution of this clean city will go up. We need to find newer ways to encourage non-motorised transport. Cycles have always been a big hit, but many cyclists say that they want separate tracks so that they can feel secure while riding. A dedicated cycling track will go a long way in encouraging cyclists," said Mahadevaswamy Gowda, a resident of Chamundipuram. **–Prakash VL**

CID probe ordered in Belagavi police custody death case

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has taken over the probe into the mysterious death of a 45-year-old accused in police custody in Karnataka, police said on Saturday.

Basanagouda Patil, a resident of Bellada Bagewadi in Hukkeri taluk of Belagavi district, was picked up by Belagavi Rural police in connection with a ganja case.

He was brought to Belagavi from his home town for interrogation. During interrogation, he fell sick and was rushed to the Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS), where he succumbed on Friday. The case is being considered as custodial death and handed over to the CID. The police maintain that the accused was taken into custody in connection with an old case. He started vomiting and sweating and was taken to a private hospital first. When his condition worsened, he was admitted to BIMS. As per doctors, he suffered a heart attack.

Belagavi Police Commissioner Dr Boralingaiah stated that there would be an impartial inquiry regarding the case. **–IANS**

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PRODUCED BY KAMAL KUMAR BARJATYA, LATE RAJKUMAR BARJATYA, AJIT KUMAR BARJATYA
MAHAVEER JAIN & NATASHA MALPANI OSWAL
IN CINEMAS NOW
WATCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

PVR CINEMAS {Phoenix Marketcity, 12:30, 7:00, 9:45 p.m. | Forum Mall, 12:15, 3:20, 7:00, 10:15 p.m. | Orion Mall, 1:00, 3:20, 7:00, 9:45 p.m. | Vaishnavi Sapphire Mall, 12:10, 4:00, 10:10 p.m. | VR Mall, 12:40, 3:05, 7:00, 10:15 p.m. | MSR Regalia Mall, 12:50, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | Spirit Mall, 3:30, 9:50 p.m. | Superplex Vega City Mall, 12:45, 4:45, 6:30, 10:00 p.m. | Uptown Omr Mall, 3:50, 10:20 p.m.} | INOX CINEMAS {Garuda Mall, 12:30, 6:55, 10:20 p.m. | Mantri Mall, 12:35, 6:25, 9:50 p.m. | Central Mall, 2:55, 9:50 p.m. | Lido, 3:20, 9:50 p.m. | Value Mall, 2:45, 10:20 p.m. | Garuda Yelahanka, 12:15, 6:45 p.m. | RMZ Yelahanka, 3:45, 10:10 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS {Royal Meenakshi Mall, 11:30, 2:55, 6:20, 9:45 p.m. | Shantiniketan, 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | ETA Mall, 12:10, 3:35, 7:00, 10:25 p.m. | SJR Spectrum Mall, 12:45, 6:55, 10:20 p.m.} | GOPALAN {Innovation Mall, 2:45, 10:00 p.m. | Legacy Mall, 3:45, 9:00 p.m.} | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX {Marathahalli, 3:30, 6:00, 9:40 p.m.} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Mangalore, 12:30, 7:00 p.m.} | PVR CINEMAS {Fiza Mall, Mangalore, 1:00, 6:30 p.m. | Forum Mall, Mysore, 3:50, 9:30 p.m.} | INOX {Satyam Mall, Mysore, 6:35, 10:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {City Centre Mall, Mangalore, 1:15, 5:50, 10:25 p.m.} | DRC CINEMA {Mysore, 7:00, 10:10 p.m.}.

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IN IMAX AT

PVR CINEMAS {Forum Mall, Koramangala, 8:30, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | VR Mall, 8:30, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | Vega City, 8:00, 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 p.m.} | INOX {Mantri Square Mall, Malleshwaram, 9:00, 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:30 p.m. | Galleria Mall, Yelahanka, 9:00, 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {Shanthiniketan, 8:50, 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:30 p.m.}.

IN 4DX AT

PVR CINEMAS {Phoenix Marketcity Mall, 8:00, 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 p.m. | Forum Mall, Koramangala, 8:00, 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00 p.m. | Vega City, 8:30, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | Orion Mall, 8:30, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {Shanthiniketan, 10:30, 1:55, 5:20, 8:45 p.m.}.

PVR CINEMAS | INOX CINEMAS | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS | GOPALAN CINEMAS | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX {Marathahalli} | KINO CINEMAS | ROCKLINE CINEMAS | URVASHI {Lalbagh Road} | MUKUNDA {Banaswadi Main Road} | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG {M.G Road} | SWAGATH POORNIMA {JC Road} | BALAJI {Chikkalsandra} | THIRUMALA {Agara} | LAKSHMI {Taverkare} | MAHADESHWARA {Banashankari} | CAUVERY {Sankey Road} | PUSHPANJALI {Sultanpalaya} | VICTORY CINEMAS {Magadi Raod} | ARUNA {Srirampuram} | MANASA {Konankunte} | SANDHYA {Madivala} | VINAYAKA THEATRE {Vartur} | AMRUTH {Lingrajapuram} | VIJAYA {Byatarayanapura} | ANJAN {Magadi Raod} | RAVI {Sarjapura} | MUKTA A2 {Uttarahalli} | RADHAKRISHNA {Matadahalli} | VENKATESHWARA {Konappana Agrahara} | VAIBHAV {Sanjay Nagar} | SRI VINAYAKA {Marathahalli} | SAVITHA {Malleshwaram} | NARTAKI {K G Road} | VINAYAKA {DJ Halli} | SANTOSH {RPC Layout} | VIJAYALAKSHMI {Garudacharpalya} | SIDDESHWARA {JP Nagar} | DRC CINEMAS {Mysore} | INOX CINEMAS {Mysore} | PVR CINEMAS {Mysore} | VISION CINEMAS {Mysore} | CINEPOLIS {Mangalore} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Mangalore} | PVR CINEMAS {Mangalore} | CINE GALAXY {Surathkal} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Padubidri} | SUCHITRA THEATER {Mangalore} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Manipal} | INOX CINEMAS {Manipal} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Shivamoga} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Kundapura} & Others Cinemas.

FOR ANY CHANGES OR CANCELLATION IN SHOW TIMINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE THEATRE

farnaz

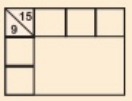
Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$\sqrt{72}+\sqrt{18}+\sqrt{98} / \sqrt{32} = ?$

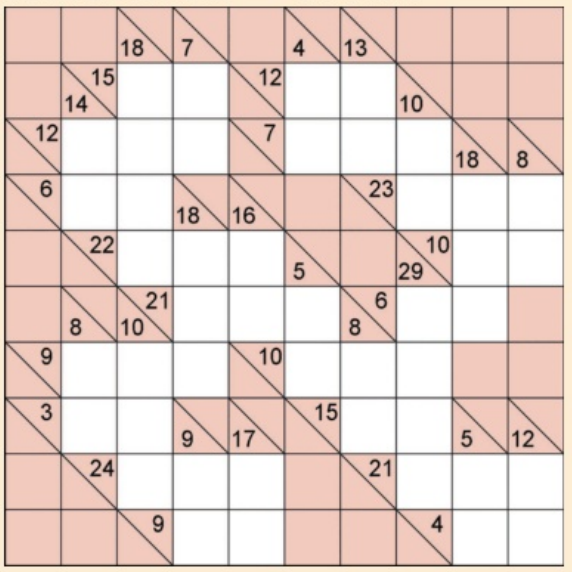
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

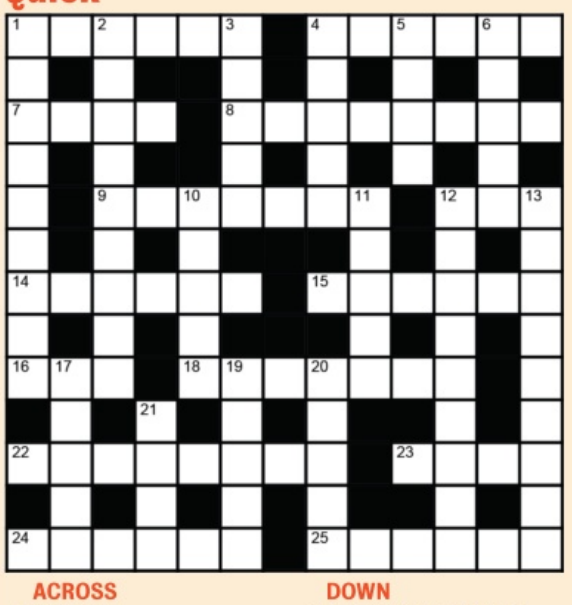


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Mourn (6)
4 Manage with limited resources ? (4,2)
7 Building structure (4)
8 Most senior (3-5)
9 F1 team (7)
12 Arabian Night's hero ___ Baba (3)
14 Eases, in a way? (4,2)
15 Meander (6)
16 2010 for the Romans (3)
18 Terrestrial (7)
22 Pretentious or empty language (8)
23 Uterus (4)
24 To enumerate (6)
25 Innocent (6)

DOWN

1 Bidding and making all thirteen tricks at bridge (5,4)
2 Levy paid to the government on what one earns? (6,3)
3 A movie super (5)
4 Tree of Canada (5)
5 Sharp-edged (4)
6 Reside or inhabit (5)
10 Crummy guy (5)
11 V-shaped cut (5)
12 Nameless, incognito (9)
13 Unable to be read (9)
17 Beach near Udupi (5)
19 Fourth month (5)
20 Subject (5)
21 Samoan Port (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS U

UJA TQXA SQB HXCWVA CPK IAEADXCUA SQBX EWYA, UJA TQXA UJAXA WV WP EWYA UQ IAEADXCUA.

Linemaro

Can I have directions to your heart?

Mindchow

I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love

Joke of the day

Why is the place you drive on is a parkway, and the place you park on is the driveway?

Loop

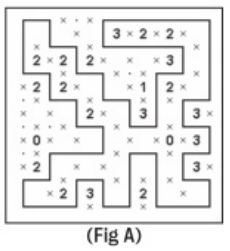
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

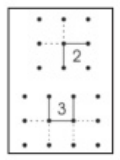
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

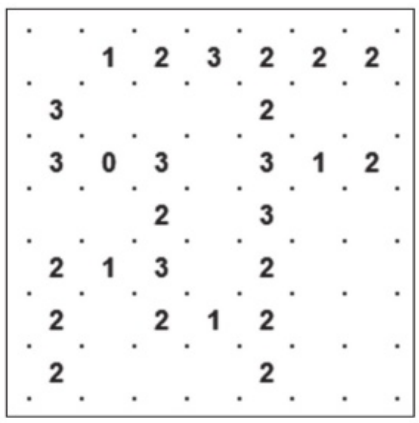
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



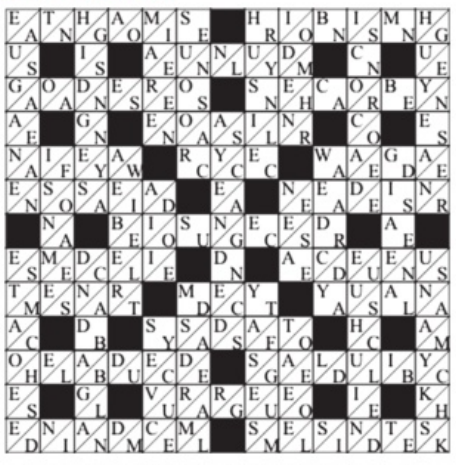
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



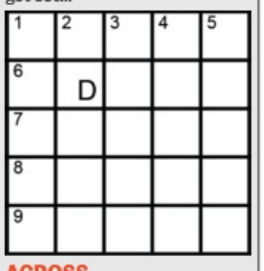
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

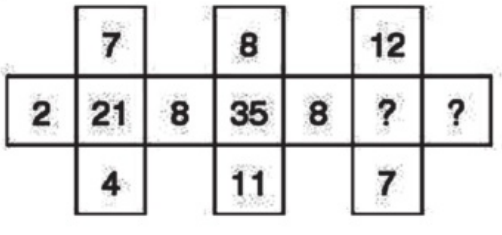
1 Barb I; 6 Solid;
7 Largo; 8 So bee;
9 Sores

DOWN

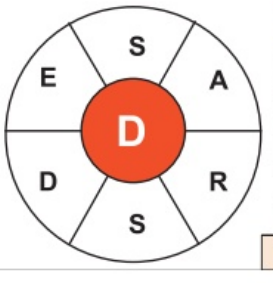
1 Or rig; 2 Boo ad;
3 Sober; 4 Bales;
5 Less I

Mensapuzzle

What numbers should replace the question marks?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			7		9		1	
4			8		3			
	5		4			7		2
						9		7
	6		3		1		4	
2		8						
8		4			7		3	
			9		2			5
	7		1		8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

3 4 9 9

Medium = 12

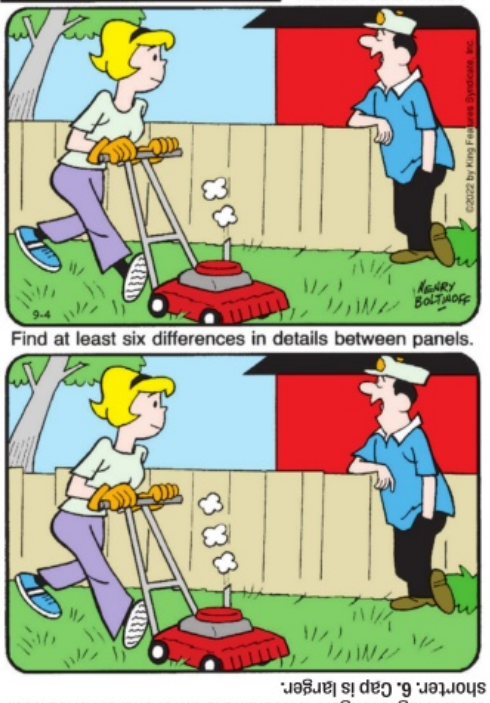
2 5 8 9

Hard = 6

4 9 9 6

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

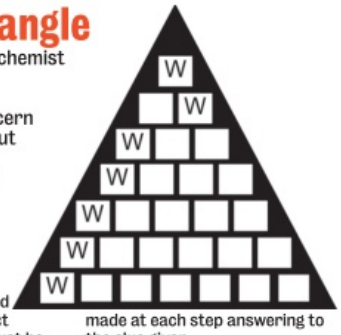
Differences: 1. Puff of smoke is added. 2. Finger is moved. 3. Pant leg is longer. 4. Neckline is different. 5. Fence board is shorter. 6. Gap is larger.

Riddler

Which Is the odd one out:
To Kill A Mockingbird,
The Old Man And The Sea,
A Clockwork Orange,
The Color Purple?

Alpha triangle

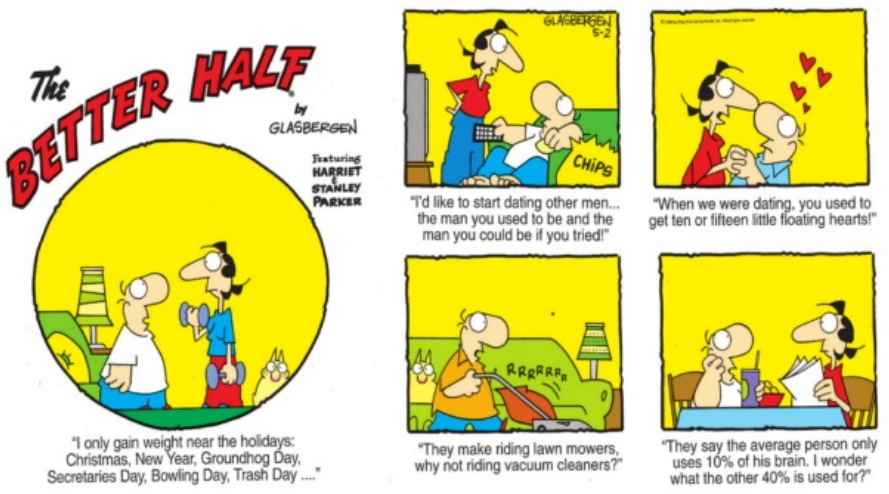
1 Tungsten for the chemist
2 Compass point
3 Loser creation
4 Sommelier's concern
5 Extend throughout
6 it: ad-libbed
7 Freshwater duck



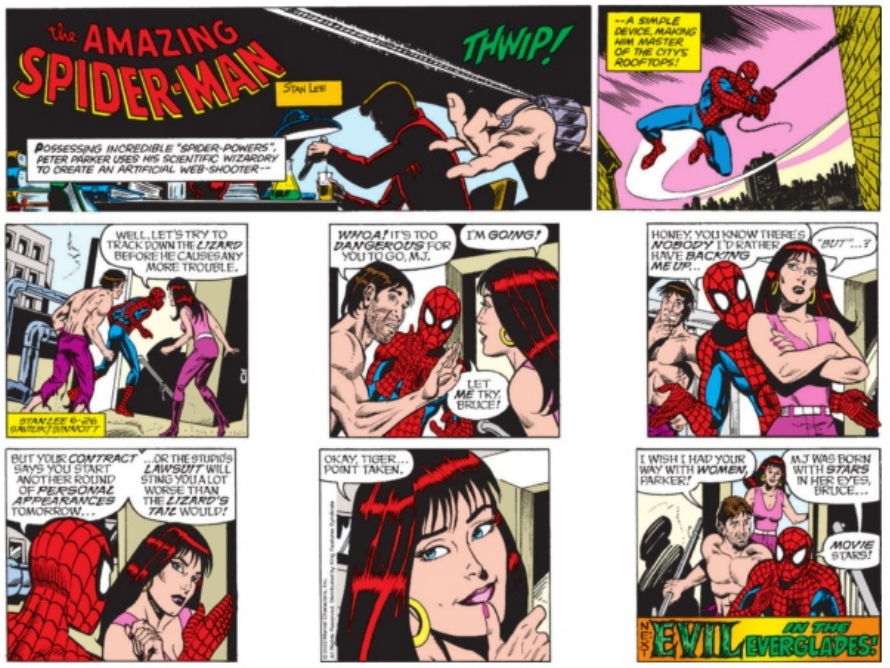
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"I only gain weight near the holidays: Christmas, New Year, Groundhog Day, Secretaries Day, Bowling Day, Trash Day ...."
GLASBERGEN 5-2
CHIPS
"I'd like to start dating other men... the man you used to be and the man you could be if you tried!"
"When we were dating, you used to get ten or fifteen little floating hearts!"
RRRRRR
"They make riding lawn mowers, why not riding vacuum cleaners?"
"They say the average person only uses 10% of his brain. I wonder what the other 40% is used for?"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
KRACK!
ATTABOY, HAMMIE! NICE ONE!
WOOOO!
YAWN! THESE EIGHT A.M. GAMES ARE BRUTAL.
JUST LET ME SLEEP ONE MORE INNING.


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
THWIP!
POSSESSING INCREDIBLE "SPIDER-POWERS", PETER PARKER USES HIS SCIENTIFIC WIZARDRY TO CREATE AN ARTIFICIAL WEB-SHOOTER--
--A SIMPLE DEVICE, MAKING HIM MASTER OF THE CITY'S ROOFTOPS!
WELL, LET'S TRY TO TRACK DOWN THE LIZARD BEFORE HE CAUSES ANY MORE TROUBLE.
WHOA! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO GO, MJ.
I'M GOING!
LET ME TRY, BRUCE!
HONEY, YOU KNOW THERE'S NOBODY I'D RATHER HAVE BACKING ME UP...
"BUT"...?
BUT YOUR CONTRACT SAYS YOU START ANOTHER ROUND OF PERSONAL APPEARANCES TOMORROW...
...OR THE STUPID'S LAWSUIT WILL STING YOU A LOT WORSE THAN THE LIZARD'S TAIL WOULD!
OKAY, TIGER... POINT TAKEN.
I WISH I HAD YOUR WAY WITH WOMEN, PARKER!
MJ WAS BORN WITH STARS IN HER EYES, BRUCE...
MOVIE STARS!
EVIL IN THE EVERGLADES!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be able to implement business plans successfully with support from your subordinates. You may be involved in some social or family get-together, which may boost your network. You are likely to go for short business-related travels, which may give you benefits in the near future.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a good day. Your financial health is likely to be good. You may get benefits from your past investments. You may have control over your expenditure on worthless items, which may boost your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite in the conversation with their partner, otherwise there may be some conflicts between them.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon and it is a good day for you. You have good vitality and energy. You may enjoy it at work. You will share romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve family harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start a project. Your perfectionism may help you to design the flowchart. Job aspirants will find a good job.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your way of speaking while talking to others. Lovebirds should be careful in discussion, otherwise their relationship may get affected.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. New sources of income are likely to open up. Your past investments will now start paying off in terms of profits. Your losses will convert to profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may be resolved.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be very happy. You will be busy at work. Your seniors may be happy and will appreciate your effort. You are likely to see some changes into your place, position, or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and lovebirds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, messy situations are under control as you are blessed by the moon. You may re-initiate your postponed works. You may get rewards for your hard work. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your finances. You may spend money on artefacts or literature. You may also plan for overseas travel.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy with family issues. You may explore extra sources of income in terms of gains. You might take an interest in artefacts, movies, and glamour, which may improve your creativity. Lovebirds have a clear view in terms of their relationships. Students may now go ahead towards their career goals.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may not feel well. You might have health issues, which may affect your professional and domestic life. You are likely to be upset due to health issues of your spouse. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and should work hard in their studies.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the positive moon. You may feel healthy and old health issues may be cured now. Money that was stuck somewhere is likely to be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan for buying some items related to luxury.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel very dull. It can make you lazy and careless. You are likely to be unfocused at work, and impatience may pull you down negatively. The health of your kids and spouse can make you upset. You should avoid making investments in assets. Lovebirds should avoid arguments in family matters.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may find negative vibrations around you, which could make you unhappy. You are advised to avoid investments in worthless assets. Your friends are not likely to be supportive today. You should not expect more from them in terms of help, otherwise it can make you more upset. You are advised to follow your intuition before taking important decisions today.

KIDZONE

Pragathi R, 6 Years, Sarvodaya National Public School

Sumanth D, 12 Years, Vandematharam English Medium School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
6√2+3√2+1√2/4√2=
16√2/4√2= 16/4=4

QUOTE UNCODE
The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate.

BULL'S EYE
adder, ADDRESS, dare, dared, dead, dear, dread, dress, read, sadder

FAST FIVE

R	A	B	B	I
I	D	O	L	S
O	G	O	R	A	L
O	B	E	S	E
R	O	S	E	S

STRIKE OUT

D	I	A	D	E	M	S	L	I	D	E	S			
E	L	V	A	G	U	E	I	K						
H	E	A	D	E	D	G	A	L	L	I	C			
C	B	S	A	D	A	T	C	A						
T	S	A	R	M	E	T	Y	U	A	N				
E	M	C	E	E	N	E	D	E	N	S				
A	B	O	U	N	C	E	D	A						
N	O	S	E	D	A	N	A	D	I	R				
A	F	E	W	R	C	C	W	A	D	L	I			
E	G	E	O	S	I	N	O	S						
G	O	N	E	R	S	N	E	A	R	B	Y			
U	I	A	N	N	U	M	N	E						
A	T	H	O	M	E	R	O	B	I	N	G			

QUICK

D	E	T	A	I	L	C	H	A	S	T	E			
P	I	I	U	L										
A	P	T	R	A	P	W	O	M	B					
C	L	A	P	T	R	A	P	O	M	I				
A	A	P	O	M	I									
M	M	X	E	A	R	T	H	L	Y	G				
A	A	S	C	N	E									
L	E	T	S	U	P	S	T	R	O	L	L			
S	E	O	O	N	L									
D	M	C	L	A	R	E	N	W	A	L	I			
N	O	R	L	N	L									
A	R	C	H	T	O	P	L	E	V	E	L			
R	N	X	A	E	W									
G	R	I	E	V	E	M	A	K	E	D	O			

MENSA PUZZLE
31 and 4: 12 × 7 = 84; 8 + 12 + 7 + 4 = 31

RIDDLER
A Clockwork Orange, the only book in the list not to win a Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

SUDOKU

6	8	2	7	5	9	4	1	3
4	1	7	8	2	3	5	9	6
9	5	3	4	1	6	7	8	2
3	4	1	2	8	5	9	6	7
7	6	5	3	9	1	2	4	8
2	9	8	6	7	4	3	5	1
8	2	4	5	6	7	1	3	9
1	3	6	9	4	2	8	7	5
5	7	9	1	3	8	6	2	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
W, NW, Win, Wine, Widen, Winged, Widgeon.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 – 4 + 3 + 9 = 17
Medium
5 – 8 + 9 x 2 = 12
Hard
9 + 6 + 9 / 4 = 6

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Baby Yoda meets Dust Bunnies

Star Wars creator Lucasfilm and Studio Ghibli have come together for an iconic collaboration on an animated short film on Baby Yoda titled 'Zen – Grogu and Dust Bunnies'

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Time for inclusivity

According to Priyanka Chopra, it is a great time to be part of cinema

Actor, producer, and entrepreneur Priyanka Chopra enjoys a massive fan following not only in Bollywood but also in Hollywood.

Recently, the actress opened up about her journey in Hollywood and how the diversity in the entertainment industry is an exciting time for actors.

The 'The Sky Is Pink' actress stated that as an actor she was always thinking about an opportunity in English language movies because they travel universally vs a specific language.

Elaborating further, she added that it is a really exciting time to not just be able to be a part of cinema no matter where in the world you are from, but to be a part of Hollywood English international cinema which was always a check in the box for actors like her who come from outside of America, it feels so inclusive.

Priyanka further added that diversity now feels more real to her. She said that streaming has given us the ability to not just be a part of English-language movies but also they have our movies.

She further revealed that her mother watches Korean dramas all night. The actress is very excited to be able to see such incredible diversity.

On the work front, Priyanka will soon be seen in 'Love Again', co-starring Sam Heughan and Celine Dion. She also has OTT series 'Citadel', which is backed by Russo Brothers. Back in Bollywood, Priyanka has signed up to play the lead in Farhan Akhtar's upcoming film 'Jee Le Zaraa', which also features Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif in lead roles. This road trip drama is scheduled to go on floors next year. **—ETimes**

Meet little Devi

Bollywood actor Bipasha Basu and her actor-husband Karan Singh Grover are over the moon today. The couple is blessed with a baby girl. Sharing the big news on Instagram, the couple also dropped the first glimpse of their little one.

The couple announced the name of their newborn too, in a joint statement that read, "Devi Basu Singh Grover. The physical manifestation of our love and blessings of Ma is here now and she is divine." **—ETimes**

Sydney calls out 'disgusting' act

Euphoria' star Sydney Sweeney has called out social media users who tagged her family members in posts depicting her nude scenes from the Emmy-winning HBO drama series.

According to Variety, in the show's first season Cassie (Sydney), is subjected to a nude photo leak. Those same images from the show were circulated online after some viewers screen-shotted them.

Variety has reported that in a new interview with GQ UK, Sydney spoke about this and said, "It got to the point where they were tagging my family. My cousins don't need that. It's completely disgusting and unfair. You have a character that goes through the scrutiny of being a sexualized person at school and then an audience that does the same thing."

When asked if the entire scenario bother her, she added, "I think it's ridiculous. I'm an artist, I play characters. It makes me want to play characters that piss people off more." Sydney participated in Variety's 'Actors on Actors' series earlier this year and stressed that safe set of 'Euphoria' has made her comfortable with being nude on camera.

The actor will return for a third season of 'Euphoria' in 2023. She's also got a couple of big movie projects on the way. **— ANI**

It's a black magic show, folks

O

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Mahesha C Ammalidoddi
- **ACTORS** Milana Nagaraj, Amrutha Iyengar, Siddu Moolimani, Suchendra Prasad, Sangeetha Anil
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **DURATION** 139 minutes

The movie starts off with a young boy crying outside a secluded bungalow. The police rush to the spot to find a dead body inside the bungalow. After a while, the director narrates how a mysterious book is considered to be the root cause of the troubles at the bungalow. The director explains how Chetu (Siddu Moolimani), a college student, falls in love with Nikitha (Milana Nagaraj) and how Nikitha's sister Nisha (Amrutha Iyengar) mistakes Chetu's friendship with her for love.

Meanwhile, circumstances lead Nisha to visit one of her friends whose father is a black magician. Nisha brings a book home from the magician's house without her friend's knowledge. She tries to go through the book and indulges in black magic. Some peculiar and mysterious things happen at the bungalow.

Nisha witnesses Nikita being killed by a mysterious person. Later, Nisha suffers from psychoticism. Chetu tries his best to help Nisha to become normal but in vain. What happens to Nisha is what the film is all about -- and it also sets the stage for a possible sequel to the movie.

The film's quality shows that the production team and director have worked very hard during the shooting.

Milana Nagaraj and Amrutha Iyengar have done their best in deglamorised roles. Milana, who is known for playing glamorous roles, has used the different role in this movie as a platform to showcase her acting skills. Amrutha has also acted well. Siddu Moolimani is convincing as a lover boy torn between two lovers.

Director Mahesha C Ammalidoddi, who makes his debut as a director in Sandalwood, has ensured that all the actors follow the script.

Cinematographer Dileep Chakravarthy has done a decent job behind the camera. Music by Kiran Ravindranath is good. Lyrics penned by Chethan Kumr, Jayant Kaikini are good.

O is worth a watch for those who get their thrills from horror.

—Y Maheswara Reddy